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Relationship between disarmament and development

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum**

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* A/65/150.
** This information was received after the submission of the main report.

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III. Information received from Governments

Jordan

[Original: Arabic]
[25 August 2010]

The United Nations and the international community accord the issue of disarmament and social and economic development great importance. Continual armament and military expenditure have a negative impact on global human, financial and natural resources and constitute a heavy burden on world economies.

Expert estimates indicate that there has been an astonishing acceleration in real military expenditure since the 1980s. Such expenditure has increased at an annual rate of 15 per cent, and in 1990, exceeded US$ 100 billion. In the period between 1989 and 1991, that expenditure greatly exceeded the sums spent on both world wars.

More than 60 per cent of the third world arms trade is to Arab countries and as a result of the volume of arms purchases, foreign indebtedness has greatly increased and the development process has slowed.

There is a close relationship between development and armament and military expenditure: as military expenditure continues to mount, there is an ever increasing shortfall in the provision of resources needed for development.

The Arab-Israeli conflict, Israel's excessive use of weaponry and its persistent build-up of an arsenal of strategic and nuclear weapons has driven the Arab States to acquire arms in an attempt to achieve a strategic balance in respect of conventional weapons and caused allocations to be diverted from development to military spending.

A serious deficiency in the development process in the region may be attributed to the funding devoted to that conflict: certain States take loans and exploit their natural resources to fund armament rather than the development process in their countries.

At the human level, the conflict is responsible for a huge number of deaths, injuries and permanent disabilities, an increase in levels of poverty and unemployment and torrential flows of refugees, all of which have led to instability throughout the region at the economic and social levels, in the industrial and educational sectors and with respect to development plans.

Security systems and stability in every country of the world are directly affected by international terrorism and terrorist organizations, which have an adverse political, economic, social and humanitarian effect and necessitate huge expenditure on counter-terrorism endeavours, thereby impacting negatively on development programmes.

With regard to the security and control of borders, States consume sizeable proportions of their financial resources in countering smugglers and saboteurs and protecting their borders, thereby contributing to the volume of their military expenditure.

States are obsessed with maintaining their security, a natural right that is supported by the United Nations. Military expenditure could be reduced without affecting security interests if only there were international guarantees that would uphold the security of those States in case of violation.

If military expenditure and armament is curbed and the concept of security is reinforced through confidence-building, financial, human and material resources could be used for civilian purposes and scientific and economic programmes, thereby promoting development in those States.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in various official forums on the issue of arms, has affirmed its absolute commitment to United Nations non-proliferation and disarmament-related programmes of action and has changed legislation and laws relating to the national, regional and international levels, as set forth below:

(a) The national level: The requisite legislation, regulations and measures have been promulgated and issued with a view to regulating arms dealings. Laws have been promulgated on the import, stockpiling, transfer of and trade in arms, and in respect of mines, 45,000 of a total of 60,000 *dunum* of mine fields have been cleared, and a large percentage of that land is currently employed for agricultural purposes.

(b) The regional level: Jordan has become a party to League of Arab States instruments on arms and non-proliferation.

(c) At the international level: Jordan has become a party to numerous international instruments on disarmament and non-proliferation.

Nicaragua

[Original: Spanish]
[11 August 2010]

The Government of Reconciliation and National Unity led by President Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra believes that disarmament and development are closely related and has a strong commitment to security and the promotion of human development. This is understood as sustainable development centred around people and pursued against a backdrop of governance, broad and direct citizen's participation and social equity, as prerequisites for the virtuous circle required to achieve development, the Government's primary goal. In Nicaragua's view, the resources released through disarmament must be used to underpin the social goals of national development.

In 1987, the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development adopted, by consensus, a final document aimed at promoting a view of disarmament, development and security as interrelated, at encouraging multilateralism in that context and at strengthening the central role of the United Nations in the closely connected fields of disarmament and development.

Nicaragua remains actively committed to the cause of general and complete disarmament. In that connection, various initiatives have received support, especially in the areas of nuclear non-proliferation, the ban on anti-personnel landmines and the illicit trade in small arms.

Nicaragua takes the view that disarmament can be achieved in a climate of trust founded on mutual respect and conducive to the establishment of better relations based on justice, solidarity and cooperation, and also that regional and subregional arms control agreements can help to peacefully resolve disputes and conflicts.

In the field of nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy, we support the efforts of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In that regard, it is worth remembering that Latin America led the way by establishing the first nuclear-free-zone in the world through the Treaty of Tlatelolco in 1967.

Nicaragua urges countries that have not signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to do so and to comply with the three pillars of the Treaty (nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy).

With reference to the ban on anti-personnel landmines, Nicaragua is a regional leader in integral action against mines. That role is founded on intense diplomatic efforts to promote the adoption of the Ottawa Convention and the successful implementation of the national demining programme completed in 2010.

In the field of small arms and light weapons, Nicaragua has reiterated in various international forums that addressing the illicit trade in small arms, a global problem, requires a global commitment from national and international actors and all sections of society. Nicaragua signed and ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime of 2000 and its protocols, and the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials of 1997.

Nicaragua's regional leadership role has enabled it to capture the attention of the donor community and secure international assistance for the Central American Project to Prevent and Combat the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons. Nicaragua hosts the headquarters of the Regional Executive Unit.

Taking action at national level, Nicaragua has updated its domestic legislation on weapons control and registration, with the entry into force of Act No. 510, the Special Act for the Control and Regulation of Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials and its associated implementing regulation. This Act is an international reference in the field. Established pursuant to the Weapons Act, the National Multidisciplinary Commission for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons created a Technical Secretariat, an associated support group and a national operational plan. This structure enabled the National Police to destroy 12,994 seized illegal weapons in July 2008. A second round of destruction, of approximately 8,000 weapons, is expected this year.

Taking action at regional and subregional level, Nicaragua has retained its leading position. The steps taken have included the designation of focal points for information exchange and adoption of the specific plan in the fight against the illicit trade in weapons, ammunition, explosives and other related articles, promoted by the Central American Security Commission and implemented by the police forces of Central America; the establishment of the legal apparatus to support our efforts in

this connection; and the ratification of the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions.

Nicaragua introduced the Central American initiative known as the Programme for Arms Limitation and Control for Reaching a Reasonable Balance of Forces and Promoting Stability, Mutual Confidence and Transparency in Central America, which has been in force since 2003. Its goal is to establish a reasonable balance in the defence and security forces, to set the maximum levels for weapons, to institute modern defence and regional public security policies, and to strengthen the mechanisms for peaceful settlement of disputes.